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Word (phrase): complementary

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com·ple·men·ta·ry (kŏm'plə-mĕn'tə-rē, -trē)
adj.

1. Forming or serving as a complement; completing.
2. Supplying mutual needs or offsetting mutual lacks.
3. *Genetics* Of or relating to a group of genes that act in concert to produce a specific phenotype.
4. *Biochemistry* Of or relating to the specific pairing of the purines and pyrimidines between strands of a DNA or an RNA molecule.

com'ple·men'ta·ri·ly (-tə-rə-lē, -trə-lē, -mĕn-tār'ə-lē) *adv.*

com'ple·men'ta·ri·ness *n.*

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Noun 1. complementary - either one of two chromatic colors that when mixed together give white (in the case of lights) or gray (in the case of pigments); "yellow and blue are complementaries"

[complementary color](#)

[chromatic color](#), [chromatic colour](#), [spectral color](#), [spectral colour](#) - a color that has hue

Adj. 1. complementary - acting as or providing a complement (something that completes the whole)

[complemental](#), [completing](#)

[inessential](#), [unessential](#) - not basic or fundamental

2. complementary - of words or propositions so related that each is the negation of the other; "'male' and 'female' are complementary terms"

[antonymous](#) - of words: having opposite meanings

3. complementary - of or relating to or suggestive of complementation; "interchangeable electric outlets"

[interchangeable](#), [reciprocal](#)

[reciprocal](#), [mutual](#) - concerning each of two or more persons or things; especially given or done in return; "reciprocal aid"; "reciprocal trade"; "mutual respect"; "reciprocal privileges at other clubs"

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To speak with severe technicality, a ship or a fleet is "brought up" - the **complementary** words



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com·ple·ment ¹ (kŏm'plə-mənt)

n.

1.
 - a. Something that completes, makes up a whole, or brings to perfection.
 - b. The quantity or number needed to make up a whole: *shelves with a full complement of books.*
 - c. Either of two parts that complete the whole or mutually complete each other.
2. An angle related to another so that the sum of their measures is 90°.
3. *Grammar* A word or words used after a verb to complete a predicate construction; for example, the phrase *to eat ice cream* in *We like to eat ice cream.*
4. *Music* An interval that completes an octave when added to a given interval.
5. The full crew of officers and enlisted personnel required to run a ship.
6. *Immunology* A complex system of proteins found in normal blood plasma that combines with antibodies to destroy pathogenic bacteria and other foreign cells. Also called *alexin*.
7. *Mathematics & Logic* For a universal set, the set of all elements in the set that are not in a specified subset.
8. A complementary color.

tr. v. (-mənt') **com·ple·ment·ed**, **com·ple·ment·ing**, **com·ple·ments**

To serve as a complement to: *Roses in a silver bowl complement the handsome cherry table.*

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *complēmentum*, from *complēre*, to fill out; see **complete**.]

Usage Note: *Complement* and *compliment*, though quite distinct in meaning, are sometimes confused because they are pronounced the same. As a noun, *complement* means "something that completes or brings to perfection" (*The antique silver was a complement to the beautifully set table*); used as a verb it means "to serve as a complement to." The noun *compliment* means "an expression or act of courtesy or praise" (*They gave us a compliment on our beautifully set table*), while the verb means "to pay a compliment to."

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Thesaurus

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Noun 1. complement - a word or phrase used to complete a grammatical construction

[grammatical construction](#), [construction](#), [expression](#) - a group of words that form a constituent of a sentence and are considered as a single unit; "I concluded from his awkward constructions that he was a foreigner"

2. complement - a complete number or quantity; "a full complement"